

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306015
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY AF/E:KLWAUCHOPE:JJ
APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST
OSD/ISA:SCHARLES
AF/I:WHLEWIS
PM/SAS:RSLOTT (SUBS)
DOD/DSAA:PSOMMER (SUBS)
-----130359 230312Z /41
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 306015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SU, US

SUBJECT: SALE OF F-5S TO SUDAN: FINANCING CONSIDERATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 4455

1. DEPARTMENT IS DISMAYED AT INITIAL SUDANESE REACTIONS TO U.S. OFFER TO SELL F-5S AND RADAR, PARTICULARLY IN DISINGENUOUS SUDANESE CONTENTION THAT U.S. SHOULD BEAR THE BURDEN OF ARRANGING FINANCING FOR SALE. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THE FINANCING QUESTION IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM REQUIRING EARLY CLARIFICATION, AND THEREFORE CONCUR WITH EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT FOLLOW-UP VISITS RELATING TO THE SALE BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL THIS ISSUE IS FURTHER REVIEWED IN AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH NIMEIRI. SHOULD FINANCING NOT BE RESOLVED BY MID-JANUARY, VISIT OF FSO CECIL OF PM/SAS AND PETER SOMMER OF DSAA

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WOULD TAKE PLACE, BUT THEY WOULD NOT CONTACT SUDANESE OFFICIALS. SOMMER/CECIL VISIT WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION ON FMS PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD RELATE TO ANY FMS PROGRAMS FOR SUDAN.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH NIMEIRI, AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE U.S. IS NOT PREPARED TO ASSUME

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGING FINANCING FOR THE SALE, NOR TO INITIATE CONTACT WITH THE IRANIANS OR SAUDIS ON TRANSFERRING THE EQUIPMENT TO SUDAN. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE SURVEY TEAM'S MEETINGS WITH SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS, THEY WERE REPEATEDLY ASSURED THAT THE QUESTION OF SAUDI FINANCING WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM. THESE ASSURANCES REINFORCED PREVIOUS SUDANESE ASSERTIONS THAT THE SAUDIS HAD PROMISED TO FINANCE THE F-5 PURCHASE.

3. THESE SUDANESE ASSURANCES WERE THE CENTRAL FACTOR IN THE DEPARTMENT MAKING THE SALE CONDITIONAL ON SAUDI FINANCING. IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS, AS WELL AS IN OUR INTERNAL PROCESS FOR JUSTIFICATION OF THE SALE, WE HAVE ASSERTED THAT THE ISSUE OF ARRANGING THE FINANCING OF THE SALE WOULD BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUDANESE. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ALTER OUR STANCE ON THIS ISSUE. VANCE

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Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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